

The KDE Qt 5.15 patch collection

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Who is this?

KDE developer since 2003

KPDF/Okular

Translations

Releases

kdegames

kdeedu

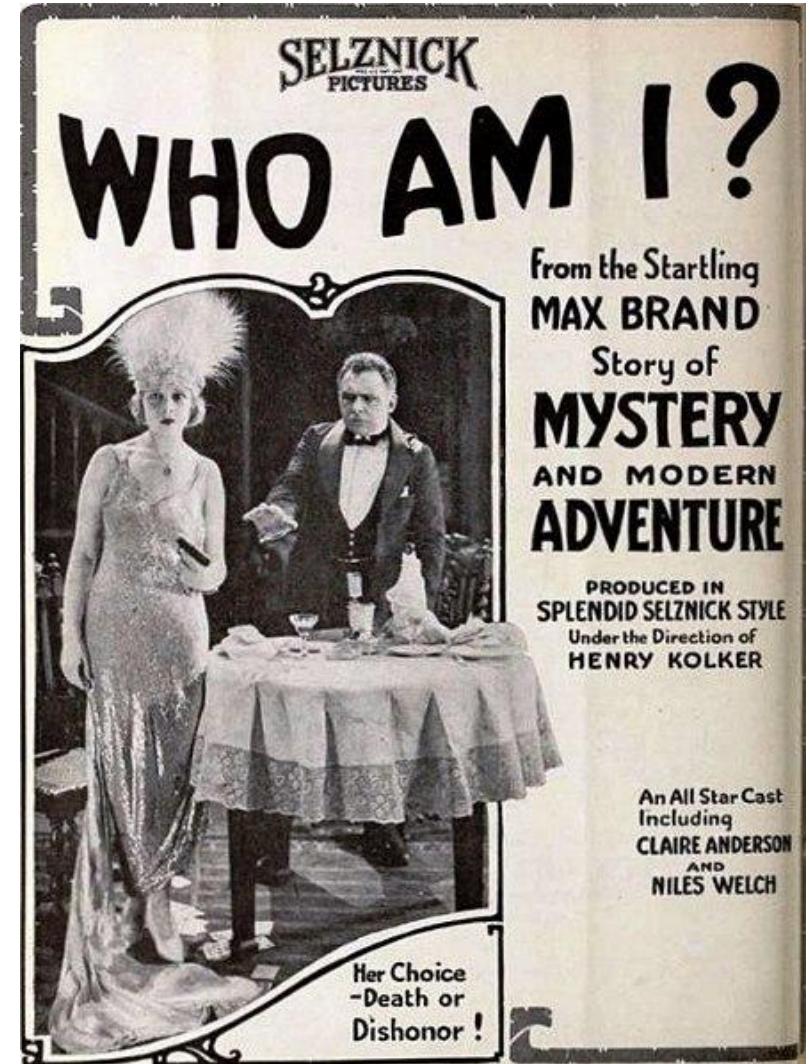
KDE España

KDE e.V.

A little bit of everything :)

Qt approver since 2018

Contributer ~400 patches



Disclaimer

This is my opinion ;)

A bit of history

Qt 1.0 was introduced in 1996

used “Qt Free Edition License”, you could not re-distribute modifications which makes it not Free Software.

KDE Free Qt Foundation was created in June 1998

The purpose of this foundation is to guarantee the availability of Qt for free software development now and in the future.

Should Troll Tech ever discontinue the Qt Free Edition for any reason including the latest version will be released under the BSD license.

Should Troll Tech cease continued development of Qt and not release a new version at least every 12 months, the Foundation has the right to release the Qt Free Edition under the BSD License.

Qt 4.8 the first Long Term Support

Qt 4.8 was released in December 2011

Qt 5.0 was released in December 2012

The Qt developers understood that moving from Qt4 to Qt5 may take some time and declared Qt 4.8 as Long Term Support leading to several releases, last one being 4.8.7 in May 2015

Example: Plasma 5.0 was released in July 2014

Qt 5 Long Term Support

Qt 5 had several Long Term Support releases: 5.6, 5.9, 5.12 and 5.15

Qt 5.12 is still supported, had a release in May 2021

Qt 5.15 LTS support status has been moved to only commercial customers

Announced January 2020

First commercial release Qt 5.15.3 in March 2021

Qt Long Term Support and KDE

Does KDE need Qt LTS?

No...

In general there had been little adoption of Qt LTS releases in our distribution channels.

...but currently yes...

Qt 5.15 is special because Qt 6 is still not ready for general consumption, so...

The KDE Qt 5.15 patch collection

Patch collection?

It's actually N git repositories

hosted at <https://invent.kde.org/qt/qt> (kde/5.15 branches)

Created on top of latest Qt 5.15 commit

Includes ~~patches~~commits that fix at least one of the following:

Security issues

Crashes

Functional defects

Then is it a fork?

Not a fork. No new features

every* patch we have has been merged upstream to the dev branch
(where Qt 6 development happens)

Free Software focus

Curated by a small group of people that are both KDE developers and Qt approvers. If you are a Free Software developer of non-KDE Qt software, a Qt approver and want to join, talk to us!

How do I get it?

We do not make releases

Manually compile from git

Used in kdesrc-build

Used in flatpak runtime

Used in some distributions

Users: talk to your distro if yours doesn't

Distributions: talk to us if you still don't

How can I help?

Qt development workflow is put everything in the dev branch and then cherry pick back whatever is needed

In Qt cherry-picking is done “automatically” by tagging a commit with Pick-to: branchname

<https://invent.kde.org/qt/backports-tracker/-/issues>

> 600 patches to consider

The Future

KDE will move to Qt6 at some point in the [near] future

Qt 5.15.3?

Released commercially March 2021

Will we get it as opensource?

Qt 6.2 will be LTS, so.... KDE Qt 6.2 patch collection?

probably not

Questions

Who?

When?

How?

Why?